

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: TORII, et al.

Filed: July 31, 2001

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROCESSING SAMPLES

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

July 31, 2001

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application, prior to examination thereof, as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please delete the paragraph at page 1, lines 1-5 (beginning after the title "BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION") and substitute therefor the following new paragraph:

--This application is a Continuation application of application Serial No. 08/470,443, <sup>-- now abandoned --</sup> filed June 6, 1995, which is a Continuation-in-part application of application Serial No. 07/638,378, filed January 7, 1991, <sup>-- now US Patent 5,200,013 --</sup> the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety, which is a Divisional application of application Serial No. <sup>07/</sup>477,474, filed February 9, 1990. <sup>-- now US Patent 5,007,981 --</sup>

WA 6/22/01

WA 6/22/01

WA 6/22/01